GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1664
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2004
TAPPING OF WATER RESOURCES
Kumar Shri Shailendra

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of water resources in the country;

(b) whether some States are having surplus water resources;

(c) if so, the details in regard to tapping of water resources;

(d) whether lakhs of acres of agricultural land are lying submerged in water;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to make use of untapped water resources or to develop water channels to use water resources for developing agricultural land; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) The average annual water availability in the country is 1869 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) and out of this, about 1122 BCM (690 BCM from surface water and 432 BCM from ground water) can be utilized for meeting diverse demand.

(b) & (c) The availability of water is assessed river basin- wise. According to studies carried out by National Water Development Agency, some of the river basins/sub-basins have been identified as surplus basins/sub-basins. The Government has taken up studies to examine the possibility of utilization of surplus flood water after giving due consideration to all related issues with a view to augment the resource availability in water deficit regions.

(d) On account of over irrigation, faulty irrigation practices, seepage from canals, lack of proper drainage network, obstruction of natural drainage lines etc., several areas in the irrigated commands are suffering from the problem of water logging/submergence.

(e) & (f) A number of surface and ground water schemes are under implementation and at various stages of planning and investigation. For speedy completion of ongoing water resources projects, the Central Government has launched the Accelerated irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). Under the programme, financial assistance in the form of central loan is being extended to State Governments to help them complete the ongoing irrigation projects in a time bound manner so that the benefits could accrue at the earliest. A Central Sector Scheme on "Study of Recharge to Ground Water" was launched during the Ninth Five Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 25.00 crore. The scheme has also been continued for the first 2 years of the Tenth Five Year Plan at a revised cost of Rs. 35.81 crore. With a view to encourage rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water, the Central Ground Water Board has proposed a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Artificial Recharge to Groundwater and Rainwater Harvesting" at an estimated cost of Rs.175 crores for implementation during the remaining part of the Tenth Five Year Plan. A number of projects under Command Area Development and Water Management Programme have been approved for reclamation of water logged areas in the irrigation commands wherein location specific surface and sub-surface drainage methods are being employed.